

## Child Impact Statement for:

### Lead Hazard Control Grant

CIS ID#: kziv5d9x

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CIS authors assessing their own effort

The impact on children directly or indirectly affected by the effort will be:

### Extremely Positive

The effort will create or greatly enhance resources, services, or facilities that provide access to or protection of assets children need in order to prosper.



## Evaluation

**Concerns:**

lead based paint hazards in pre 1978 housing; especially housing occupied by children under the age of six. Lead based paint poisoning can cause a multitude of health and developmental problems, especially children at risk (children under the age of six)

**Justification:**

Lead based paint poisoning can cause a multitude of health and developmental problems, especially children at risk (children under the age of six). This grant will help Shelby County decrease lead poisoning in children under the age of six and will have a community wide impact on children under six. Shelby County Housing has been committed to helping reduce lead hazards since 1992. We are committed to helping eliminate all lead hazards in Shelby County which will directly result in a healthier living environment for children.

**Goals:**

We plan to enroll and evaluate 300 units; address lead hazards in 253 houses; education and outreach events; test/screen children for blood lead poisoning. The education aspect of the program educates doctors, nurses and workers/supervisors on the impact that lead has on the health and safety of children under the age of six. We also educate the parents and homeowners on proper cleaning of the home. Proper cleaning can eliminate lead dust which is a direct hazard if contacted. Education is also given to children under the age of six. They are taught proper hand washing. Hand to mouth contact is one of the biggest sources of ingesting lead dust which can cause emotional and learning disabilities.

**Actions:**

We will conduct paint inspections and risk assessments of 300 units; interim control and clearance testing for 253 units. We will conduct over 300 educational activities. This includes health fairs, direct contact with children and educators in day-care and early education facilities. We will also conduct education to homeowners and medical professionals.

**Benefits:**

At the end of the program, 253 lead safe units primarily benefitting households with children under six will have been made lead safe. Education will have been conducted to over 3000 individuals.



## Research

Safety involves the shared responsibility of citizens and government to reduce, prevent, and respond to threats, injuries, and the many forms of emergency. It also involves crime—that committed against children and that committed by children, youth, and young adults. Given the greater risk of injury and early death in higher-crime areas, safety is an essential pre-condition for a child's physical health. Tragically, it's the youngest children who suffer the most—from intentional and accidental homicides to neglect, abuse, endangerment, and abandonment. Child safety is therefore absolutely necessary for successful outcomes in early childhood development. And while responsible parenting, good schools, and access to nutritious food and preventative healthcare are undeniably essential for positive child well-being, these assets would be severely jeopardized without public safety providers. Reduction and prevention of crime and injury, expert response to emergencies, enforcement of environmental protections, and development and sustainment of productive alternatives for all youth protect homes and family environments, promote education, and reduce extreme forms of stress that can lead to mental & behavioral health disorders. Safety also draws investment and jobs, which positively impact family income, career opportunities, and economic development.

Early Childhood Development involves quality life and learning experiences—inside and outside the home—from birth to age five. Positive interactions with supportive adults, carried on within the safety of productive living and learning environments, prepares a child for success in education while promoting the required physical health and mental & behavioral health required for success in life. Positive early childhood development depends on a stable home and family environment and sufficient family income to help promote and sustain such an environment. The collective impact of early childhood development therefore promises the greatest social and economic returns for a community, and the greatest reduction of future expenses, of any of the seven domains. From birth until about the age of five, a child undergoes tremendous development. If this period includes support for growth in language and thinking skills as well as physical, social, and emotional development, the child is more likely to succeed in school and to later contribute to society. Conversely, without support during these early years, a child is more likely to drop out of school, depend on welfare benefits, and commit crime—thereby imposing significant costs on society. Early childhood development efforts recognize this potential—and this risk—and seek to nurture healthy development from the earliest years. (Center for Urban Child Policy. 2008. Memphis: The Urban Child Institute)

Home and Family Environment involves the well-being of children within their homes and surrounding contexts. This domain is heavily impacted by family income, because higher earnings correlate with higher rates of home and neighborhood safety. This domain also overlaps education, because parents' educational attainment impacts not only their children's potential, but their own readiness for the responsibilities and challenges of parenthood as well. And this domain overlaps health and mental & behavioral health, because they both concern the wellness of parents and children—from prenatal care, to preventative wellness visits, to sick care, to the reduction of toxic stress in the home. And along with quality childcare centers and pre-K programs, the physical, intellectual, and emotional nurturing that takes place in the home and neighborhood plays a vital role in early childhood development and thus the enhancement of children's potential. A large percent of children are born into families made fragile and vulnerable by poverty, unstable and broken family relationships, and low levels of other important resources, like education and bonds of neighborhood trust. Children raised in vulnerable families lack assured nutrition and health care, are more likely to have turbulent home and family lives, and are comparatively more likely than their privileged peers to confront issues of addiction, poverty and crime. As a result, these children experience greater levels of toxic stress, too often reach school less prepared than middle-income children, are more likely to struggle through school, and, as a result, are less



likely to thrive as children, as youth, and as adults. (Center for Urban Child Policy. 2008. Memphis: The Urban Child Institute) involves the parents and the child, covering prenatal health through the full scope of pediatric preventative and sick care. Attention to this domain is particularly critical for the Mid-South due to the region's comparatively high rates of infant mortality, low infant birth weight, poor diet, child obesity, and uninsured families. Like safety, health is an essential form of child protection, promoting positive early childhood development and maturation into adulthood. Without proper and consistent healthcare, parents cannot protect the home and family environment, because their family income is threatened by lack of adequate insurance and the threat of job loss due to the high percentage of employers denying sick leave. And education suffers as children fall victim to vaccine-preventable illnesses, miss school, and fall behind their peers in academic achievement. Many of the same conditions that affect health, particularly those circumstances induced by poverty, impact children's mental and behavioral health as well. The improvement in the life expectancy of children was initially driven by improvements in nutrition, living, educational standards, and sanitation. Over the last forty to fifty years, improvements in child health and survival have increasingly come as a consequence of technology and developments in scientific medicine. In spite of an overall improvement in the health of children, the best indicator of the likely health and overall well-being of any particular child continues to be the socioeconomic status of their families. As the quality of medical care has improved, for example, the ability to purchase it has had a growing impact on health. (Center for Urban Child Policy. 2008. Memphis: The Urban Child Institute) Mental and Behavioral Health involves the reduction and elimination of toxic stress in the home, treatment of mental health disorders, prevention of suicide, and responsive and productive means to address risky and destructive behaviors by children, youth, and young adults. Mental and behavioral health therefore impacts physical health, safety, and the stability of the home and family environment. Treatment of mental health disorders is key to job retention, which sustains family income. Treatment of behavioral problems can help keep youth in school, which promotes higher levels of education. Overall, attention to mental and behavioral health can increase parents' childcare capacities and productive strategies, particularly during the intensive period of early childhood development. While mental and behavioral disorders are not something one can touch or often readily see, their effects are no less concrete than physical injury or disability—and their impact on the other domains of child well-being are no less real. Family Income involves the wages and consistent employment required to support the home and family environment, promoting safety by protecting children from poverty. While the summaries for each of these domains demonstrate that it takes much more than money to foster a child's potential, the data show that money matters. Poverty and low-income do not merely represent the absence of sufficient funds, but also the lack of adequate assets to improve one's circumstances—assets such as access to early childhood development, health, mental and behavioral health, and quality education resources. The cumulative lack of sufficient household incomes generates greater costs and risks across the entire community. Socioeconomic status continues to be the best predictor of child well-being. It correlates with the likelihood that a pregnant woman will receive early prenatal care and that new parents will have their children vaccinated. As children enter school, socioeconomic status is also the best predictor of school achievement, of the likelihood that children will graduate, will attend college, will avoid risky behaviors in adolescence, and will be of an older age when they themselves become parents. (Center for Urban Child Policy. 2008. Memphis: The Urban Child Institute)

Health, environmental, and property & housing code enforcement: Protection from dangerous structures, overcrowding, and other physical, infrastructural and environmental hazards, including food, water, ground, and air contamination. More: Research shows that poor children are disproportionately exposed to risk



factors, such as exposure to environmental toxins, which may harm brain development (Center for Urban Child Policy. 2008. Memphis: The Urban Child Institute). Quality early childhood experiences: Positive interactions and learning experiences with parents, care providers, and teachers. Initiatives that promote supportive relationships and rich learning opportunities for young children create a strong foundation for higher school achievement, followed by greater productivity in the workplace and solid citizenship in the community. Quality early childhood services depend on the expertise and skills of the staff and their ability to build positive relationships with young children. The striking shortage of well-trained personnel in the field today indicates that investments in training, recruiting, compensating, and retaining a high quality workforce must be a key priority. (Science of Early Childhood Development. 2007: The National Scientific Council on the Developing Child) Access to home visitation programs: First-time single mothers living in poverty receiving regular home visits from trained nurses. Benefits include reduced reliance on welfare assistance, increase in maternal employment, significant reduction in crime, fewer child injuries from ingesting household toxins, and improved mental and behavioral health outcomes (Databook IV. 2009. Memphis: The Urban Child Institute). School readiness: Expanded access to high-quality early-childhood development centers and pre-kindergarten programs and improved scores on kindergarten readiness and cognitive development assessments. Too few young children have access to quality early experiences. Programs like Early Head Start can prepare young children for a productive life, but only a fraction of eligible infants and toddlers are currently served. Low-income 3- and 4-year-olds are less likely to have access to preschool programs than their middle and higher-income peers. (Center for Urban Child Policy. 2008. Memphis: The Urban Child Institute)

Shelby County currently has over 1900 homes listed on the Lead Safe Registry. These are homes that were made safe through our program or the City of Memphis Lead Paint Demonstration Program. The list also includes homes that were tested for lead hazards and found to be lead safe.

Shelby County will be partnering with the following agencies: Memphis Shelby County Health Dept (MSCHD); Shelby County Community Service Agency; City of Memphis HCD; Binghampton CDC; Frayser CDC; The Works; United Housing; Cooper Young CDC; New Chicago CDC; and North Memphis CDC. The partners will help contribute match requirements and will also be making the homes safe and secure while also addressing the lead hazards. MSCHD will also be contributing education and outreach as well as testing of children; lab analysis; and clearance testing.

